paid during 1988-89 is estimated be Rs. 4138 crores and Rs. 2520 crores respectively.

Jute Production

3801. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to slate :

(a) whether it is a fact that jute production in 1987-88 was lower than in 1986-87;

(b) if so, to what extent it was less in 1987-88 in comparison to 1986-87; arid

(c) what were the main factors responsible for this low production and what steps are being considered to improve the position in 1988-89 ?

THE MINISTER OE TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIVVAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that production of jute goods during 1987-88 was lower than in 1986-87. Production during 1987-88 (April-March) was 11.92 lakhs tonnes as against 13-94 lakh tonnes during 1986-87 representing a decline by 14.5 per cent.

(c) Decline in production of jute goods during 1987-88 is primarily because of low demand, industrial disputes in some mills and strike in National Jute Manufacturers Corpn. Ltd. Various measures have been taken by the Government for improving working of jute industry among which following are most important:

(ij Setting up of Jute Modernisation Fund of Rs. 150 crores with effect from 1st November, 1986 for Modernisation of Jute Mills.

(ii) Setting up of a Special Development Fund of Rs. 100 crores for restructuring/rehabilitation of jute industry as well as for development of jute agriculture.

(iii) Mandatory Order for Compulsory use of jute packaging materials for certain sectors like cement, goodgrains fertilizers and sugar.

(iv) Providing cash compensatory support for export of jute goods.

(v) Introducing internal marketing assistance scheme for marketing of some selected items of diversified jute products in order to increase and uses of these items.

Ivi) Purchase of jute goods for Government sector directly from jute mills at cost plus basis.

(vii) Creation of raw jute buffer stock for bringing stability in raw jute economy.

Allocation of fund for international price reimbursement scheme

3802. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.:

(a) whether Government have arranged Rs. 40 crores for engineering exports oc ad-hoc basis for payment of pending claims under the International Prase Reimbursement Scheme

(b) if so, what are the other assurances given to the exporters for their problem of non-availability of adequate funds; and

(c) what are the other assistance provided to them ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) There is no shortage of funds presently with the E.E.P.C. for the disbursement of IPRS claims.

(c) The important forms of assistance provided to exporters are Cash Compensatory Support (C.C.S.), access to raw